

OUR WORLD

Eberhard Greven, icon painter in a prison cell

Eberhard Greven, one of this country's best icon painters, has spent the past twelve years in prison near Dortmund, where he is serving a life sentence for murder.

For six years he has been concentrating almost exclusively on old Byzantine paintings. Now he is visited by a constant stream of art experts and art lovers who buy icons from him or leave valuable pieces with him to be restored.

Greven, now aged 35, is allowed a small cell of his own to work in. He has to pay forty deutschnarks per day for this and the privilege of not having to work with the other prisoners. The cell walls are covered with religious pictures on all sides, and it is here that Greven receives his visitors.

When he talks about his life he divides it rigidly into two parts: his youth before he landed in prison at the age of 23, and the time he has spent inside since then.

His trial lasted three years. Then he went into the Ergste Prison. For years he lived with the drudgery of prison work. The grassweed stuffing from his mattress had to do instead of tobacco, the food he was given was "uninspiring to say the least."

Then at the beginning of the seventies the situation changed for prisoners serving life sentences and Greven was sent to work in the bookbinding department. Because he was good at working with his hands he was given the job of repairing valuable books.

Continued from page 11
litations between Telepool and Linda fizzled out.

Curt Linda offered to produce the film at a price of DM5,000 per minute of broadcasting time (taking eight months for the 22 episodes) but Telepool found this price too steep and offered DM3,000 per minute. As a result, a Yugoslav company was commissioned to make the film.

Says the head of Telepool: "The present world market price for animated cartoons ranges between 5,000 and 8,000 deutschnarks per minute. We got the Mouse for half that amount."

According to Herr Linda, there is a bleak future in store for this country's animators. As he puts it: "There are no special schools for animators, so they have to train new blood themselves. Moreover, the mass appeal of American and Japanese animated cartoons is more in demand with our TV networks than artistic quality."

(Mitteldeutsche Zeitung, 11 March 1977)

Weight check for civil servants

Overweight people cannot become civil servants in Bavaria, the SPD concludes from an official statement made by Albert Meyer (CSU) in the Bavarian parliament, whereby a weight check is to be included in the medical inspection on all applicants for civil service posts.

One 22-year old police sergeant who weighed one hundred kilogrammes shot himself when a superior in the force told him he was too fat. On holiday in the Tyrol he had lost 14 kilogrammes

and was due for medical inspection a few days later.

The Bavarian Ministry of the Interior has been aware for some time that many applicants for posts in the police force are overweight.

All civil servants in Bavaria will have to undergo a medical inspection on applying for a trainee post and again before being permanently accepted in the civil service.

Karl Stankiewicz
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 2 March 1977)

Freedom, however, is still a long way

off. On average "lifers" in North Rhine-Westphalia serve sentences of about twenty years. The regulations governing reprieves are now being revised.

North Rhine-Westphalia Minister of Justice Diether Posser has proposed that courts might decide whether a prisoner is fit for reprieve or whether his term in prison should be continued after fifteen years. In this he is supported by state premier Heinz Kühn.

Peter Jegor, one of Eberhard Greven's closest friends, is convinced that Greven has the strength of character to settle down satisfactorily after his release.

Greven himself says, "I have prepared myself for my release. I can pay my debts with the money I earn painting. It's perfectly obvious that I shan't need any re-socialising."

He has been paying off his debts for some years. Compensation to the murdered man's widow and costs of his trial and term in prison are costing him hundreds of thousands of deutschnarks, including interest.

What he cannot understand is "For years they made me work for practically nothing — only fifty pfennigs per day!"

Today he is earning considerably more. People buy his icons for anything from one to four thousand deutschnarks. Naturally at the moment he is able to save little.

Greven is something of a mystery to his fellow prisoners. Success sometimes makes life a little difficult for him, both with prisoners and prison officers who often resent and envy him.

His painting has led him towards the Greek Orthodox Church, and when he is released he intends to join it.

He is understandably asked one question time and time again, namely whether he thinks he would have discovered his talent had he not been sent to prison.

"No", he replies, "I'd almost certainly still be the same rotten person I was before. The shock had to come. But what a price to pay for it! I was just 23 years old and had a dead man on my conscience."

Carola Bönk
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 9 March 1977)



Eberhard Greven in his work cell

(Photo: Franz Lothen)

Housewife's worth

The compensation a man and his family receives when a wife or mother is fatally injured varies considerably from case to case. Particularly fathers with young children are likely to get into severe difficulties.

At the fifteenth conference of Federal Traffic Court judges and experts, new compensation sums in cases where mothers are killed in road accidents were laid down.

Where a forty to 49 hour working week is involved, compensation to the extent of DM 2,500 will be granted. This is the average monthly wage a home help would be paid for this work.

Should the father decide to do without help he is entitled to 1,500 to 1,800 deutschnarks per month. This corresponds to the average net income of a home help.

(Nordwest Zeitung, 12 March 1977)

Glucose vs. alcohol

Glucose helps reduce the blood alcohol level more quickly than alcohol after drinking one too many, according to Hans Diel of Frankfurt University, and Gerhard Ohlenschläger of the Gustav Embden Centre for Biochemistry, Frankfurt.

They carried out tests on sixteen people and found that their blood alcohol level sank very much more quickly when they drank a mixture of glucose and vitamin C.

Glucose speeds up reoxidation of a catalyst in the body, NADH (Nicotinamide dinucleotide) so that the liver is able to produce more of the enzyme alcohol dehydrogenase which reduces the level of alcohol in blood.

Vitamin C most probably also influences certain metabolic processes, helping to reduce the blood alcohol level.

Herr Diel and Herr Ohlenschläger published their findings in *Umwelt, Wissenschaft und Technik*, 5, 1976. There they also noted that a higher dosage of vitamin C and glucose accelerated the process even more.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 March 1977)

No job after marriage

Most women stop working at least temporarily after getting married or having a baby. About two-thirds of the 17.3 million women who took jobs after leaving school have stopped working at least once.

The Federal Statistics Office in Wiesbaden says that 6.4 million of these women did not take a job again, while 5.3 million women found another job after a temporary break.

Approximately 36 per cent of these were off work for less than two years. Half the women were unable to return to their former occupations.

(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 11 March 1977)

Divorces double

More than 106,000 couples were divorced in 1975 according to statistics published by the Federal Statistics Office. This is an increase of 8.4 per cent against 1974.

The number of divorces in this country has doubled in the past twelve years. In 1975 for every ten thousand marriages there were 67.4 divorces. This is a high divorce rate as in 1950...

(Die Welt, 11 March 1977)

The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Hamburg, 3 April 1977
Sixteenth Year - No. 781 - By air

C 20725 C

EEC anniversary summit proves a damp squib

Kieler Nachrichten

Nothing much came of the twentieth anniversary gathering of EEC leaders in Rome — nothing, that is, which was divulged to a wider public. The declarations made failed at any stage to transcend what has long been common knowledge.

One can but endorse the view of Sicco Mansholt, Dutch ex-president of the Common Market Commission, that the whip is currently more badly needed than the carrot. Ministers, he rightly notes, have lately been showing signs of tiredness in building a united Europe.

Under the guise of realpolitik and a pragmatic approach the public are being fobbed off with a policy of common inertia.

The European Council, as periodic gatherings of European Community heads of State and government are now known, surely has a threefold role:

— First, in conjunction with the people responsible for framing policy guidelines in their respective countries the leaders of the Nine ought to be outlining joint European policies by which the holders of the various Ministerial portfolios should be bound.

— Second, the Council should don the mantle of a court of appeal should government ministers from the individual EEC countries and members of the Common Market Commission in Brus-

IN THIS ISSUE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS Page 3
US attitude on nuclear deal with Brazil upsets Bonn

HOME AFFAIRS Page 5
The Government is in a sorry state

MARKETS Page 7
More and more German firms take the US plunge

WRITING Page 11
Tucholsky's letters from exile — did they deserve such ruthless editing?

...sels fail to reach agreement in the Council of Ministers.

— Third, the EEC summit gathering ought to boost morale within the Nine, bearing in mind that all Common Market countries are fraught with anxiety of one kind or another and would all start the day with minds more at ease if only they felt confident that the men at the helm were willing and able to act in an imaginative political manner.

The Common Market leaders measured up to none of these roles in Rome. Their declaration on the economic situation

within the EEC merely reiterated in shorter form what the Commission's report had to say on the subject.

What they had to say on ties with Japan was old hat from start to finish. Instead of warning Japan, as has been done in the past, not to pursue unduly aggressive export policies, the emphasis was laid on Japan importing more from Europe, which is what Marketeers and the Council of Ministers have been saying for ages.

EEC heads of government went on to emphasise the urgent need for revamping the steel industry, which has been in heavy weather for some time. This too hardly needed repeating.

What they had to say may reassure steelworkers threatened with redundancy. This at least is the excuse advanced for the lack of substance in the European Council's Rome proposals.

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt outlined to fellow-members a draft joint approach by the Nine to raw materials. Bonn has thus abandoned its inflexible opposition to international support arrangements.

Something may now be attempted in respect of selected commodities from which particularly poor countries should benefit. What is more, and better late than never, the prospects of a joint EEC outlook on this vital issue have taken a turn for the better.

What this country has suddenly rediscovered is a solution the Common Market has long practised in respect of some of its 52 overseas partners by the terms of the Lomé convention.

Bonn for long fought the so-called Stabex proposals tooth and nail — only to agree in the end after all.

The Nine also agreed to a compromise in Rome on the demands made by smaller members of the EEC for Common Market representation at the Wes-

Bonn envoys to Moscow have too often intimidated with a note of cautious optimism that substantial progress has been made on Berlin, so exaggerated expectations were not placed in the recent mission to the Soviet capital headed by Günther van Well of the Bonn Foreign Office.

It was more than unlikely that Soviet leaders would hand him on a platter what they had refused Willy Brandt, Walter Scheel, Egon Bahr, Helmut Schmidt and Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

What Bonn, of course, has long been angling for is the incorporation of West Berlin in otherwise world-perfect treaties on legal assistance, cultural exchange and scientific and technological cooperation.

Herr van Well seemed unlikely to deliver the goods because, furthermore, the tenor of public utterances on the two countries' divergent viewpoints has of late increased in acerbity.

Yet both Bonn and Moscow retain an



In Rome for the twentieth anniversary celebrations of the EEC were, from left, French Head of State, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Belgium's Minister President Leo Tindemans, West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, and British Prime Minister James Callaghan

(Photo: dpa)

tent economic summit on 8 and 9 May in London.

Britain's Roy Jenkins, president of the EEC Commission, will attend the summit, but the Rome compromise on this issue was not greeted with unbounded enthusiasm and hardly constituted a highlight in progress towards European integration.

Britain, France, Italy and this country, the four leading members of the Nine, twice barred the doors of Western economic summit meetings to the other five — at Rambouillet in 1975 and Puerto Rico in 1976.

Did not the Common Market set out twenty years ago with a view to equal rights for all members? With the signing of the Treaty of Rome an end was to be put to the days when one European country counted for more than another because it had the larger population or manufactured its own nuclear weapons. Smaller member-countries were reminded of traumatic days of old when competing major European countries

brought the continent to the brink of disaster.

It is, perhaps, some consolation to note that it was Bonn which espoused the smaller members' cause and Helmut Schmidt who discreetly persuaded the other members of the European Council to consent to the compromise.

The Big Four's behaviour towards the other five at Rome was disgraceful. When they stated their case not one of the four felt in any way obliged to reply. Their statement was greeted with chilling silence.

The only hope the Rome gathering held forth was that the European Council now plans to hold meetings along lines different from the fireside chats of which Common Market leaders have hitherto expected so much.

Meetings are in future to be planned in advance and the agenda and debate to be organised. It is almost never too late; maybe something will yet come of the proposal.

Hermann Böke
(Kieler Nachrichten, 28 March 1977)

Little progress on Berlin in Moscow talks

Interest in intensifying relations on a treaty basis and not abandoning them to the prospect of stagnation in sectors other than trade.

Mr. Brezhnev would like to reinvigorate his Westpolitik and now that ties with the United States are less rosy than they used to be the Soviet leaders ought to be even more keenly interested in fostering relations with Western Europe.

Besides, Mr. Brezhnev only recently reiterated his intention of revisiting Bonn this year, and it is not in keeping with his style to make a visit of this kind without accomplishing some tangible outcome.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 26 March 1977)

OSTPOLITIK

East-West relations continue to deteriorate

Our relations with the East are deteriorating — not dramatically but steadily. With its refusal to permit entry to roughly 170 visitors to the Leipzig Fair the GDR continued a course it had embarked on some time ago by barring from entry people who had recently left the GDR or who maintained contact with GDR citizens contemplating doing so.

It is a bad sign indeed that the SED, East Berlin's Socialist Unity Party, pursued this policy without regard for the image of the Leipzig Fair as a broad-minded and "open to the world" event — the image it is trying to promote.

But even more worrying is the systematic manner in which, since the beginning of this year, the GDR is trying to give East Berlin the legal status of GDR territory and thus undermining the Four-Power status of all sectors of the city.

Up to now, the staff of the British, French and American occupation forces has remained unaffected. But a couple of weeks ago the Soviet Ambassador to East Berlin, Pyotr Abrassimov, flatly denied that the Western allies had any rights in East Berlin.

There is of course nothing new about this contention, but this time it was put forward so demonstratively as to make it virtually certain that there is an ulterior motive behind it. If the Soviet Union were to act on its threat and bar members of the Allied forces from East Berlin a confrontation would be inevitable.

Even more serious would be the implementation of the recent GDR civil aviation regulation in which that country claims full sovereignty over its airspace, which means that the Western Powers would have to negotiate air traffic rights to and from Berlin with the GDR. But this, too, is not new. Nikita Khrushchev and Walter Ulbricht put forward the same demand in the summer of 1961 and withdrew it again in the face of America's implacable attitude. Instead, however, they built the Wall.

There is nothing to indicate at present that Moscow wants a new Berlin crisis, although it is preparing the instruments with which to create one.

Right now the East bloc action is no more than a hidden threat, but in the long run it is the vehicle for a changed and stiffer policy vis-à-vis the West.

It seems relatively unimportant in this context whether this two-tier policy is planned or whether it is due to two different views among the East bloc leadership. Presumably, it is both. What matters is that détente, although disputed in most East bloc capitals, continues without being taken for granted and with reservations.

Helsinki and Eurocommunism have provided the peoples and political parties of Eastern Europe with an explosive situation which, given economically difficult times, could easily detonate — a fear particularly harboured by those who are responsible for internal security.

This also explains why the SED leadership is implementing certain "sovereignty measures" regardless of the response which which these might meet. It further explains how forces could come to the fore in Poland which have long disagreed with party boss Edward

Gierek's liberal course and his open-minded attitude towards Bonn.

Moreover, President Carter's public statements in connection with the Berlin question, circumspection and consideration is all that can be chalked up — and even this does not apply to the whole of the Bonn government. So far as the MBFR talks in Vienna are concerned Chancellor Schmidt announced last year that new initiatives would be forthcoming. But now the subject seems to be off the agenda altogether — or at least it is no longer being mentioned in Bonn.

The old truism that Berlin policy, *Deutschlandpolitik*, *Ostpolitik* and military policy must be planned in conjunction with each other seems to have been forgotten. There are hardly any vestiges left of former efforts to sway our allies into pursuing an open-minded *Ostpolitik* of the part of the West. Bonn is today the slowest ship in the convoy.

Instead of building up steam for his ship of state, Foreign Minister Genscher indulges in legal interpretations wherever he goes. But it has always been part and parcel of *Ostpolitik* to articulate principles without doing much else.

How is the Soviet undermining of Berlin status to be stopped if not by policy that would make it clear that does not pay to antagonise Bonn at further?

Activities in the trade sector, Western efforts at bringing about a détente and proposals for troop reductions are all very well — but what we need is a policy which would once more underline the fact that we do have such a thing as *Ostpolitik*.

Relations with the Soviet Union have not been fostered any further. And where relations with Poland are concerned, the success of the Schmidt-Gierek treaties is being followed up by thoughtless bureaucracy which provides

More than anything else, *Deutschlandpolitik* is a subject of polemics between Government and Opposition in Bonn.

But neither the Opposition nor the Government has come up with any feasible concepts for future relations with the GDR, nor are there any coordinated reactions to East Berlin's pinpricks.

Egon Franke, Bonn Minister for Intra-German Relations, opposes any barriers to trade between the two Germanies as a retaliation for the new implacability on the part of the GDR. In fact he is even resorting to the long disapproved argument that trade between the two Germanies would help secure jobs in the Federal Republic.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs' State Secretary Carsten Rohwedder, on the other hand, said at the Leipzig Fair that SED General Secretary Erich Honecker was wrong in saying that trade relations need not be affected by political differences. Trade and politics, Rohwedder maintained, are inseparable.

In a televised discussion, the CDU's spokesman on *Deutschlandpolitik*, Olaf von Wrangel, advocated financial sanctions. These would, among other things, include the withholding of payments to the GDR until that country has delivered the "goods".

West Berlin CDU deputy, Jürgen Wohlrahe, on the other hand, stressed in the Bundestag that even a CDU/CSU government would have to make these payments in accordance with legally binding agreements.

The amounts involved are not peanuts. Last year they added up to DM665

the more rabid elements in Warsaw with plenty of pretexts for a relapse into old conditions.

And in Bonn-GDR relations and the Berlin question, circumspection and consideration is all that can be chalked up — and even this does not apply to the whole of the Bonn government. So far as the MBFR talks in Vienna are concerned Chancellor Schmidt announced last year that new initiatives would be forthcoming. But now the subject seems to be off the agenda altogether — or at least it is no longer being mentioned in Bonn.

The old truism that Berlin policy, *Deutschlandpolitik*, *Ostpolitik* and military policy must be planned in conjunction with each other seems to have been forgotten. There are hardly any vestiges left of former efforts to sway our allies into pursuing an open-minded *Ostpolitik* of the part of the West. Bonn is today the slowest ship in the convoy.

Instead of building up steam for his ship of state, Foreign Minister Genscher indulges in legal interpretations wherever he goes. But it has always been part and parcel of *Ostpolitik* to articulate principles without doing much else.

And yet it would be fallacious to suspect that there have been any changes in Bonn's *Ostpolitik*. The Federal government's attitude in critical situations — an attitude usually determined by the Chancellor — demonstrates that common sense still prevails. But this attitude, while preventing certain things, has achieved little.

There is no lack of goodwill in Bonn although there is decidedly an unwill-

lingness concerning any major commitment in matters of *Ostpolitik*. The government took months to sanction the Ministers concerned to a conference and once the conference was about it was adjourned without having reached any policy decisions.

If the upper echelons cannot arrive at a decision because they lack the time or because they are unable to reach agreement on a course of action there is little that can transpire on lower levels.

No one can say with certainty that our position would be better if the government had tried harder. But, by the same token, it is obvious that the government has made no effort at all.

This passive attitude is particularly hard to understand in view of the fact that our relations with the East have been deteriorating steadily for long time and that the reasons for this deterioration are plainly visible.

The government knows that deterioration — due to its effects in the East — has become both a more tedious and a risky business, and yet it has done little to stimulate the East bloc's interest in relaxation of tensions.

The Bonn government is clearly aware of the fact that Leonid Brezhnev, Edward Gierek and Erich Honecker are fighting for a middle-of-the-road, moderately liberal course, and yet it has done little to lend a discreet hand to their efforts.

How is the Soviet undermining of Berlin status to be stopped if not by policy that would make it clear that does not pay to antagonise Bonn at further?

Activities in the trade sector, Western efforts at bringing about a détente and proposals for troop reductions are all very well — but what we need is a policy which would once more underline the fact that we do have such a thing as *Ostpolitik*.

Peter Bender
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt
20 March 1977)

It is thus not unlikely that the introduction of road tolls for the new highway links to East Berlin by the GDR will be countered by Bonn by reducing tolls for the use of West German roads by GDR lorries.

This would not bring much in monetary terms but it would give the Federal Republic a lever in negotiations about the abolition of such tolls. It is conceivable that the outcome of such negotiations would be the relinquishing of it on both sides.

Although the Federal government has been postponing a decision on this issue, it is unlikely that guarantees in the trade between the two Germanies will be raised. These guarantees consist of credits to East German suppliers — to be confused with the line of credit generally known as "Swing" which present stands at DM850 million, while the guarantees involve DM2,600 million and have been fully utilised.

The GDR showed interest in increasing the line of credit granted under the Swing procedure to DM1,200 million in order to finance some major projects. But since a major contract was slated to go to the West German Salzgitter AG steelworks was finally awarded to an Italian company, Bonn no longer has any incentive to increase the line of credit.

In any event, the whole issue will come to the crunch until 1980, the future extent of Swing is to be decided. Unless any other agreement is reached, this line of credit will remain

Continued on page 6

HOME AFFAIRS

The Government is in a sorry state

Following his party's losses in last year's Bundestag election, which he won by the skin of his teeth, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt believed that he would in future have to concentrate more on foreign affairs than on domestic politics.

But the very opposite has transpired. The pensions debacle and the attempted reduction of public health expenditure followed by the struggle over nuclear energy and, finally, to top it all, the bugging affair have blocked the runway for the take-off of the second Schmidt/Genscher government. No matter how one looks at it, this government is in a sorry state.

The electorate reacted accordingly in the recent Hesse municipal elections. Sympathisers with the Social and Free Democratic coalition defected en masse to the CDU.

To add insult to injury, the Juso (Young Socialist) leadership went from "Red" Heidemarie Wiczorek-Zeul to the even more leftist Marxist theoretician Klaus-Uwe Benneter, which obviously entailed a further loss of prestige for the Social Democrats in government.

Moreover, Helmut Schmidt, whose forte is economic policy, cannot expect to gain in prestige by developments in the economy and on the labour market. The question that comes to the fore is: How long will Schmidt's tenure of office be guaranteed by the weakness of the Opposition CDU/CSU?

The bugging scandal did not add stature to Helmut Kohl but to the SPD Parliamentary floor leader Herbert Wehner who became the major figure of the legislative branch of government. It was he whose persistent questions kept the government on its toes.

The second Schmidt/Genscher government has been unlucky in the past

Continued from page 4

three months. And there are growing doubts as to whether the Coalition in Bonn can survive many more such crises.

In any event, the acute danger of a deterioration of the Coalition was overcome in the nick of time and on the verge of an abyss, so to speak. This is largely due to the determination of the major SPD and FDP politicians to remain at the helm.

The Chancellor is well aware of his party's growing distaste for the political tenacity of the Free Democrats — a distaste which, on occasion, has been directed against Helmut Schmidt as well. But most SPD officials still believe that their party cannot provide a Chancellor without its FDP ally and that only Herr Schmidt can at present fill this office.

As a result, Helmut Schmidt's present situation — no matter how precarious — cannot be likened to the disintegration three years ago which led to the resignation of Chancellor Willy Brandt.

Herbert Krump, editor of the daily *Die Welt*, who recently speculated on certain remarks of Herbert Wehner, deducing from them that the latter was ready to topple the Chancellor and once more assign an opposition role to their SPD, is clearly on thin ice.

But what about Herr Genscher's interests? Although they differ from those of the Chancellor, the FDP leader nevertheless wants to preserve his coalition. Participation in government enjoys absolute priority with the Free Democrats, and they are aware that any departure from the Social and Free Democratic coalition before 1980 would be political suicide.

A switch from the internationally respected Helmut Schmidt to the novice Helmut Kohl is not very attractive to

Joachim Nawrocki
(Die Zeit, 25 March 1977)

Genscher — nor is it attractive to Minister of Economic Affairs Hans Friedrichs. Thus all internal conflicts are transcended by Schmidt's and Genscher's common interest in remaining in power. And this provides a certain safety net in crises.

But the uncertainty remains and so does the chariness of the electorate. The traditional stability of the Federal Republic does not include the continuity of the Bonn Coalition. In fact, never has a Chancellor carried a heavier burden!

With it all, Helmut Schmidt was not too far off when, assuming his second term of office, he showed more concern for the political situation of our neighbours than that of his own country.

In France, Socialist successes in municipal elections gave President Giscard d'Estaing a foretaste of the outcome of the parliamentary elections next year. Britain's Prime Minister James Callaghan only just managed to survive a vote of no confidence with the help of the Liberals; Holland's Prime Minister had to resign; and in Italy, Premier Giulio Andreotti is dragging himself from one crisis to the next. Helmut Schmidt is thus surrounded by teetering partners in Europe, and to make matters worse, there is the uncertainty about Washington's future course.

It goes without saying that Chancellor Schmidt's leverage in international politics is largely dependent on the strength of his position at home. At present, he no longer seems to make policy; instead, he only reacts to crises that confront him. In fact, it could almost be said that survival is all that matters to the Coalition at the moment — and that is clearly not enough.

Unless he manages to summon up his old vitality and leadership on the domestic front — a vitality and leadership to which he owes his re-election — Helmut Schmidt is bound to lose his grip in foreign policy. If this were to come to pass the Coalition would be unlikely to survive until 1980.

Kurt Becker
(Die Zeit, 25 March 1977)

CDU's Hesse poll success a shock for Bonn

The shock wave of the CDU landslide victory in the Hesse municipal elections extended all the way to Bonn. Hesse, traditionally an SPD stronghold, is now firmly in the hands of the CDU, which is the strongest political power there. SPD city fathers, who had become so used to running local government over a period of decades, were dealt a shattering defeat.

This defeat was particularly badly felt in bastions such as Frankfurt and Wiesbaden where the CDU now managed to gain the absolute majority.

Rainer Barzel, always an eager campaigner for the CDU, demanded of the electorate that it teach Bonn a lesson. And so it did — especially where the stronger of the two coalition partners is concerned. In any event, there was consensus among all parties that the reason for the landslide had little to do with municipal politics.

The outcome of the Hesse elections clearly reflects the citizens' disgruntlement with the pensions debacle, the bugging scandals and the infighting concerning personnel questions. All this, together with the educational policy in Hesse, the affair surrounding Heleba (the Hesse State Bank) and the manipulation of funds contributed to the SPD hit the just and the unjust in town halls throughout the state — regardless whether they had been successful in their work or not.

The warning signals of the lost state election of 1974 when, for the first time, the CDU emerged the strongest party in Hesse were prophetic, and rigid party structures and politicians who were down and out continued to dominate the Hesse SPD. But not for long.

The new State Premier, Holger Bör-

Hard-liner leads Young Socialists

Klaus-Uwe Benneter, a 30 year old Berlin lawyer, was elected chairman of the Young Socialists at the organisation's conference in Hamburg on 20 March. The Young Socialists (Jusos) is the SPD youth organisation. Herr Benneter belongs to the "Stamokap" (Staatsmonopolistischer Kapitalismus) Marxist wing.

Those who cocked a sensitive ear to the applause that greeted the speeches of the three candidates for the succession to Juso Chairman Heidemarie Wiczorek-Zeul at the Hamburg Congress Centre on 20 March could anticipate the sensation that was later to materialise. Klaus-Uwe Benneter received more applause from the 300 delegates than his colourless competitors Wolfgang Jüttner and Ottmar Schreiner.

With a Stamokap man at the helm — a man who considers the state a stooge of capitalism and who persists in his demands that industry be nationalised — the young people's SPD is clearly heading for difficult times.

Admonishments by Bonn as well as the trade unions to elect the moderate, Ottmar Schreiner, went unheeded in Hamburg and might in fact have had the very opposite effect.

Mistrust of "old comrades up there", as one of the delegates put it, is more deeply seated than ever. Benneter received the greatest applause when he said, "with me at the head the Jusos will become more uncomfortable to live with than they have been hitherto." And this is quite so.

If Benneter succeeds in pursuing the Stamokap course it is, in the long run, possible that the SPD might part company with its unloved youth section. But it is equally possible that the Jusos will split into two groups should Benneter insist on pursuing his uncompromising leftist course. It is also possible that, because he won the election with a majority of only four, the new Juso boss will tread cautiously.

Thomas Wolgerst
(Lübecker Nachrichten, 22 March 1977)

ner, who had only just begun to show a strong hand and regain the confidence lost under his predecessor Albert Osswald, became the innocent victim of his party's unutilised opportunity of renewal.

In view of this setback, the time left to Herr Börner in which to recapture confidence until the autumn of 1978 is unlikely to suffice to bring about a change in the present trend.

But with all his ebullience about the victory in Hesse, Helmut Kohl is not quite happy about the implications of the victory of his Hesse party associates. The reason for this is simple: The Hesse landslide improved the image of the pro-Strauss chairman of the Hesse CDU, Alfred Dregger, whose confrontation course could put a spanner into the works of Herr Kohl's Bonn policy — especially with regard to a possible coalition with the FDP.

It was above all Herr Dregger who, in conjunction with Franz Josef Strauss, made it easy for the FDP to ignore the welcoming open arms of the CDU — and not only in Hesse. Frank Kössow
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 22 March 1977)

TRADE

Bonn's imports increase by more than their fair share

The Federal Republic of Germany did its share in boosting the world's economy last year. This must be pointed out to those who demand that we embark on a more expansionist course.

Countries with less buoyant economies have been demanding that the economically strong states step on the gas and tolerate somewhat higher inflation rates in order to help the weaker ones overcome their difficulties.

Such appeals are out of place in Bonn because West Germany has done more to stimulate the economies of its trading partners than other countries in a similar position.

The United States, Japan and the Federal Republic are generally termed the locomotives of world economy. But what is the actual state of these growth locomotives?

In the period from 1974 to 1976 there was no increase whatsoever in Japan's imports. At the same time the United

Orders down

Our industry's incoming orders diminished conspicuously at the beginning of this year.

According to the Bonn Ministry of Economic Affairs, orders for the processing industry dropped by six per cent from December 1976 to January 1977. And orders from abroad dropped by ten per cent during the same period.

The decrease was particularly noticeable in the capital goods sector, where it amounted to 14.5 per cent.

The Ministry pointed out, however, that the new preliminary figures released by the Federal Statistics Office in Wiesbaden are possibly misleading due to the switch from industrial statistics only to "statistics covering all manufacturing trades."

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 22 March 1977)

States boosted its imports by 14 per cent and the Federal Republic by a whopping 26 per cent.

In other words, foreign goods and services flowed into this country at a considerable pace.

Taking a closer look at last year's imports, we will see that the 20.3-per-cent increase over the previous year (bringing total imports to DM222,000 million) is not due to increased purchases of raw materials nor is it attributable to higher prices, which accounted for a mere three per cent.

Oil imports play a relatively modest role in the overall picture. Mining products which, for statistical purposes, include oil purchased abroad show an increase of 19 per cent.

Well above average, on the other hand, was the increase in the import of capital goods which amounted to 23 per cent, representing 22 per cent of total imports. The lion's share in this sector went to mechanical engineering, imports of which increased by 17.2 per cent, electronics, which increased by as much as 21.1 per cent, and motor vehicles, with 29 per cent.

Thus our foreign competitors got their fair share of this country's automobile bonanza in 1976. And since most of these suppliers are domiciled in France, Italy and Britain, two of the particularly weak nations received a beneficial shot in the arm.

But even in the consumer goods sector, which accounted for 15 per cent of our imports, our foreign competitors had no reason to complain about a lack of opportunity in this country's market. The increase in this sector amounted to just under 18 per cent, with plastics reaching 22.4 per cent. Textile imports, too, increased by close to 17 per cent,

and the sub-section clothing by 16 per cent.

All in all, the increase in our 1976 imports was about three times as high as the growth of our GNP and this can only be termed remarkable. Foreign suppliers benefited last year from the fact that the deutschmark was rising on foreign exchange markets. Moreover, the sustained, though slow, recovery of our economy engendered heavier demand for foreign products.

In analysing last year's imports according to countries of origin we will see that our European trading partners did rather well. Imports from the EEC increased by 17.2 per cent. The French share remained more or less average while imports from Britain rose by a startling 23 per cent. Italy was clearly below average, having achieved only 9.7 per cent.

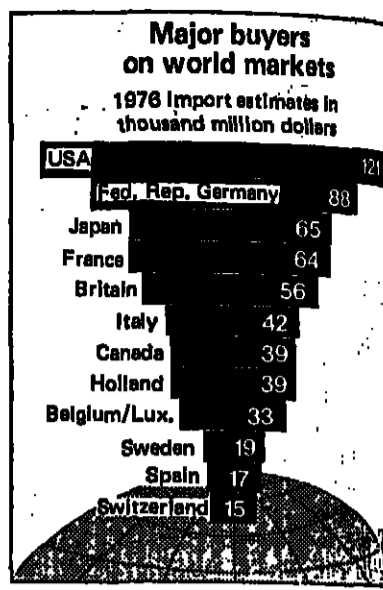
Considerably more spectacular results were achieved by some other European countries. Imports from Switzerland, for instance, rose by 24 per cent and those from Austria by 29. But the developing countries, too, got their share. They supplied goods to the tune of more than DM45,000 million — an increase of 17 per cent over the previous year.

But import increases from the communist states topped all other countries. They rose by 26.8 per cent to DM10,980 million, achieving a five-per-cent share of overall imports (compared with 4.7 per cent in the previous year). All communist countries except North Korea benefited from this increase of DM2,300 million.

Particularly conspicuous was the rise in imports from the Soviet Union which amounted to DM1,120 million. Imports from Poland rose by DM483 million, Hungary DM227 million, Rumania DM203 million, People's Republic of China DM128 million and Czechoslovakia DM111 million.

Those who still demand that we do more for the world economy must be told that, if the cooperativeness of a country is to be measured by its willingness and ability to import, the Federal Republic of Germany has certainly pulled its weight.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 19 March 1977)



Trade surplus modest, says Bundesbank

Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger

The Bundesbank has countered criticism concerning the Federal Republic's trade surpluses. In its latest monthly report, the Bundesbank drew attention to the fact that, more than other countries, West Germany must have trade surpluses in order to offset its deficits in the service industry and the extremely high transfers abroad.

According to Bundesbank figures, the country achieved a trade surplus of DM41,200 million in 1976. B. DM33,700 million had to be used to offset trade deficits in the service industry and in transfers.

The services particularly affected include the travel and holiday business, commissions, trade fairs and advertising costs. Transfers involve primarily foreign workers' money transfers to their home countries, payments of pensions or other social benefits to foreigners, contributions to international organizations and non-repayable development aid.

According to the Bundesbank report the deficit in the transfer balance also amounted to DM17,700 million in 1976. Of this amount, DM4,400 million was transfers of pensions and social benefits to foreigners. Foreign workers' money transfers to their home countries amounted to DM11 million and DM3,700 million was paid to EEC funds.

The Bundesbank criticized the fact that the International Monetary Fund does not include government transfers abroad (DM9,400 million in 1976) in trade balances and that this country's surplus is therefore seemingly very large.

According to the Bundesbank, the actual surplus in 1976 amounted to DM7,500 million. This is a mere 0.7 per cent of GNP, which means that the Federal Republic is rather close to having a trade balance. The Bundesbank wants to say that, taking into account its deficits in the service industry's foreign trade and foreign transfers, this country remains the largest net importer of goods.

Moreover, with its disappointing increase in imports, which amounted to 21 per cent, rising to DM214,000 million, the Federal Republic must be considered an additional market and a booster of the economies of its trading partners.

(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 18 March 1977)

MARKETS

More and more German firms take the US plunge

America has been rediscovered — 500 years after Columbus crossed the Atlantic. The massive buying power of the States has made that country an interesting proposition for West German investors.

Volkswagen is erecting an assembly plant for its "Rabbit" in Pennsylvania, Daimler-Benz is considering the acquisition of certain plants of White Motors, which is in financial straits at present, and Linde has recently bought a stake in the forklift truck business of the Otis Elevator Company in New York.

But the big capital trek to America is spearheaded by the chemical industry. This country's major chemical concerns have for some time been manufacturing in the country of unlimited opportunities. And smaller, though equally fine, chemical companies are following suit. The most recent of them is Degussa, which intends to invest some 150 million dollars in Alabama by 1978.

According to the Bonn Ministry of Economic Affairs, this country's investments in America stood at DM5,400 million at the end of 1976. But this figure only includes capital transfers across our borders and not transfers made from Luxembourg and other financial centres. Appreciation and re-invested profits are also not included in this figure. If one were to include all this, the actual value of West German investments in the United States would amount to DM7,000 million.

Transfer figures are nevertheless indicative of the growing interest of this country's business in the acquisition and establishment of companies in the United States.

While, in the early seventies, West German investments in America rose by about DM300 million annually, this figure reached the DM1,200 million mark by 1976.

This is clearly an investment record. Meanwhile Germans are currently investing more in America than vice versa (American investments in the Federal Republic amounted to DM800 million in 1976).

But the sum total of US investments in this country, again using capital transfers as a yardstick, still by far surpasses German investments in the United States, amounting to DM18,000 million.

Granted, it is no accident that the increase of German investments in America coincides with a radical change in foreign exchange parities. The days are over when Americans could buy German factories out of their petty cash box, so to speak, and transactions in the opposite direction were prohibitively expensive. A dollar no longer costs four deutsche marks but a mere DM2.50.

The revaluation of the deutschmark has made investments in the United States cheaper and — even more important perhaps — it has more or less equalised production costs.

While actual hourly wages are still higher in the United States, additional costs caused by social security contributions and the like are considerably lower. Moreover, energy and raw materials are available at a reasonable cost. And freight charges are diminishing the more production rests on American component parts. All this makes it quite prof-

itable to supply the American market from a factory located in that country.

The question of costs, while important, is not the main motivating force behind German investments in the United States. The main reason is the physical presence on the world's largest market and proximity to the customer. This makes it possible to react more flexibly to demand, be it for goods or services, and to guarantee shipments (an aspect of paramount importance in the chemical industry) while at the same time capturing a larger share of the market without bogging down in the jungle of tariff regulations.

While more than 11 per cent of West Germany's direct investments in the post-war era went to the United States, in certain individual branches of industry this proportion is even higher. The chemical giant Bayer, for instance, concentrated 40 per cent of its foreign investments in the United States. Bayer's sales in America amount to approximately 800 million dollars per annum of which 85 per cent is accounted for by the concern's American output.

The American market is not only important for our chemical industry because it is demanding and because only top-notch products stand a chance, but also because the Americans are extremely domestically orientated where chemicals are concerned, of which they buy only five per cent abroad.

In other words, one must be on the spot if one is to make a sale. This consideration was also the motivating power behind Degussa's decision to erect a factory in Alabama. The cyanurichloride which Degussa will manufacture in its US plant will be sold primarily to Shell, which intends to process it as a weedkiller in its Alabama factory. There is every likelihood that Shell would have found shipments of that chemical from Germany too unreliable.

In keeping with the general trend, VW's headquarters in Wolfsburg stress the importance of an operational base close to the customer because it eliminates the "pipeline effect." This is the tedious time-lag between the exploration of new customers' wishes and their implementation at the German assembly line. Including transportation, it can take

The German-American Chamber of Commerce in New York recently drew attention to the fact that it is more than ten years since a European airliner was to the United States.

Is trade between the United States and Europe strictly one-way where highly sophisticated technical products are concerned? This certainly seems to apply with regard to airliners and complex weapons systems.

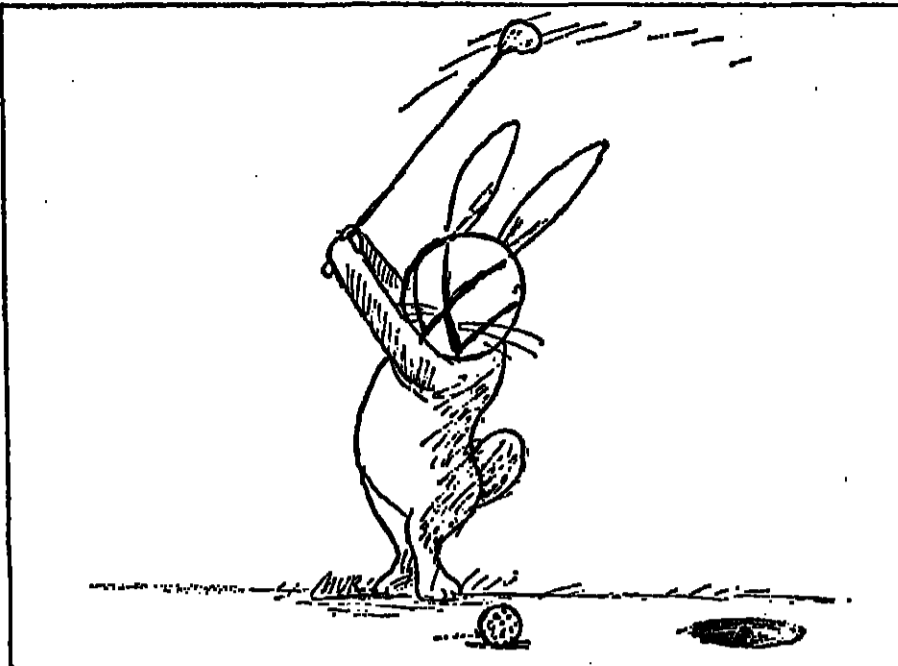
Europe's aviation industry has in the past few years managed to develop internationally marketable products in certain sectors.

The German-American Chamber of Commerce includes among these products the A 300 Airbus, VFW-Fokker's range of aircraft (the F 27, F 28 and VFW 614) and the Tornados. MRCA European fighter plane. And, finally, the Anglo-French Concorde is certainly an enormous achievement.

But persistent efforts to gain a foothold in the United States with the A 300 Airbus have so far failed to lead to a sale. At the beginning of the year, Western Airlines seriously considered buying the Airbus, only to settle for an American aircraft in the end.

The VFW 614 German jet also failed to get a hoped for order from the US Coast Guard.

According to the Chamber, even the



VW Rabbit on the US green (Cartoon: Lutz Munschütz/Süddeutsche Zeitung)

Furthermore, freight costs of light but bulky chemicals to the United States would have been disproportionately high. This is a consideration which carries less weight for the automobile industry. But even so, freight costs played a considerable role in VW's feasibility study for its American plant.

Still, with 40 per cent of the component parts for the "Rabbit" having to come from the Federal Republic, Volkswagen will be unable to rid itself of freight charges entirely.

But this alone is unlikely to induce VW to use American components for its "Rabbit."

True, VW's chief executive pointed out that mass produced components could be bought more cheaply in the United States, but before this can be done American manufacturers must meet VW standards.

Those investing in the United States invest in the world's freest country with a huge market.

(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 19 March 1977)

America chary of buying European advanced technology

refusal of the New York Port Authority to grant the Concorde landing rights at Kennedy Airport must be viewed as an obstacle to the development of highly sophisticated European technology. Incidentally, the decision about landing rights for the Concorde has been postponed once more and will now probably have to be settled in court.

America's leading role in sophisticated weapons systems is still undisputed, although Europe has some genuine alternatives to offer in certain sectors.

First successes seemed within grasp in connection with the new generation of tanks for Nato. In an agreement between Bonn Defense Minister Georg Leber and the former US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld dating back to July 1976, the two countries agreed to standardise by America's adopting the gun of Germany's tank Leopard II which in turn would be equipped with the engine of the XM-1 American tank.

Optimists even went so far as to hope that one of the two tanks — be it the

many months before a VW is equipped in exactly the manner customers in New York or Chicago want. This time-lag will be eliminated in future.

It is lamentable that German investments are concentrated on the United States and that developing countries are benefiting little from the flow of capital.

But according to the Confederation of Federal Republic Industry there are good reasons for this state of affairs.

Tax relief and cheap labour in the developing nations lose much of their attraction as a result of inadequate infrastructure and poor productivity of the local labour force. Moreover, many developing nations demand that their nationals hold a controlling interest in the company — a demand which has a deterrent effect, as do difficulties in transferring profits. None of these obstruct investments in the United States.

And as opposed to many developing nations who insist that products be exported in order to improve their balances of payments, America imposes no such restrictions.

Those investing in the United States invest in the world's freest country with a huge market.

(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 19 March 1977)

Caution advised at Western economic summit

Bonn hopes that the London summit will confirm the OECD agreements in which the parties concerned undertook not to introduce protectionist administrative measures.

Particular circumspection, Herr Rohwedder said, is called for where relations between Bonn, Tokyo and Washington are concerned. Bonn feels that some partners have latterly been gunning for each other. The steel industry in particular, Detlev Rohwedder pointed out, has embarked on a course contrary to the ideas of the Ministry of Economic Affairs under the cloak of the Montanvertrag (the European Coal and Steel Community).

Rohwedder expressed concern about the fact that Belgium's EEC Commissioner Etienne Davignon, yielding to pressure by his country's steel industry, has embarked on a conspicuously protectionist course. Says Herr Rohwedder: "Where our relations with Japan are

concerned we must desist from thinking in terms of dumping all the time."

If protectionist sins have been committed we must see to it that we do not lose our sense of guilt because only this can induce us to make amends.

With regard to energy policy, Herr Rohwedder drew attention to the frustration that prevails at the Ministry of Economic Affairs. The court ruling as a result of which construction of the nuclear power station in Wyhl had to be discontinued has taken the wind out of the Ministry of Economic Affairs' sails.

Herr Rohwedder stressed that there was no getting around the fact that the industrial nations will be faced with bottlenecks in their oil supplies in the eighties. Nuclear energy was intended to account for nine per cent of the overall energy supply in the OECD nations by 1985. Should we fail to achieve this target — and this is quite conceivable under present circumstances — our oil demands would increase by 1,000 million tons.

But the shortage will be noticed with the first barrel we fail to receive — and not only in 1985.

And since prices will skyrocket as soon as this contingency arises, the developing countries will bear the brunt of this situation.

(Handelsblatt, 21 March 1977)

The Bonn Government would like to see the future course of the world economy charted with the greatest of circumspection.

State Secretary Detlev Rohwedder of the Bonn Ministry of Economic Affairs pointed out at a conference of the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany held in Berlin that the Federal Government warns its partners of exaggerated expectations in connection with the economic summit scheduled to take place in London on 8 and 9 May.

The growth potential, said Herr Rohwedder, is limited lest the inflation spiral be set in motion again. He went on to say that the problems of the economically weaker countries cannot be solved by a forced expansion in the major industrial nations.

According to Herr Rohwedder, continued economic recovery on a global scale is fraught with danger. This is a point on which Bonn and Washington agree.

Among these dangers is the possibility of a resurgence on a national and international scale of the struggle for an equitable distribution of incomes, an accelerated rise in the inflation rate on top of a relatively high basic rate of inflation, distortion in the balances of payments structure and a tendency towards protectionist measures.

Japan is 116

SHIPPING

US trust-busters aim at North Atlantic shipping conferences

Trust-busters at the US Justice Department have set their sights on the North Atlantic shipping conferences. "Nothing will come of the move," a spokesman for Hapag-Lloyd, Hamburg composedly comments, while VDR, the Federal Republic Shipowners Association, rates the exercise "an attempt by young college graduates out to make a name for themselves by conducting probes that are poles apart from practical considerations."

The "young college graduates" have indeed fielded heavy artillery. In a report concluded in February they accuse North American and European members of the conferences of "reducing the volume of world trade" by jointly fixing freight rates and distribution.

They also stand accused of delaying the use of cost-cutting innovations in shipping and, by virtue of limiting exporters' access to less expensive moles

Bonn earmarks an extra DM 50 mill.

Great expectations need not be placed in the supplementary aid programme to boost domestic shipbuilding, according to the Federal Republic Shipowners Association, Hamburg.

The association has called for more effective provisions in respect of subsidies towards newly-commissioned tonnage. More cash must be made available and the terms need improving.

The Federal government has earmarked an additional fifty million deutschmarks in shipbuilding subsidies, increasing percentage aid to owners from twelve and a half to seventeen and a half.

This supplementary measure is not intended to boost the merchant navy, however, the association claims. It represents no more than an increase designed to offset spiralling costs.

A more suitable move, shipowners feel, would be the investment allowance proposed by shipyards towards the cost of building new vessels and refitting existing tonnage. Yards have also called for grants towards reorganisation.

Owners nonetheless view as a step in the right direction the requirement that subsidised tonnage be registered in this country for at least eight years (as against ten).

Government aid to shipbuilding is also possible via development aid allocations, assuming that Third World countries commission ships from yards in this country.

The Bundeswehr has also announced plans to invest 2,300 million deutschmarks in the construction of new frigates. This too should help shipyards to ride out the doldrums.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 19 March 1977)

of shipping, of behaving in a manner befitting "monopolists out to maximise profits."

These accusations constitute one of the weightiest attacks ever on the shipping conference system, which has been in existence for more than a century.

The anti-trust agency has selected a ten-year period and noted that in this period freight rates have been increased by amounts varying between 34 and 149 per cent.

Exporters who rely on regular shipping services have no option but to knuckle under to price increases. Exporters urgently need more wide-ranging competition, the agency argues, advocating abolition of the US Shipping Act of 1916, which ensures conference shippers immunity from anti-trust legislation.

Tooth-and-nail competition for freight would ensue, which is of course what the US Justice Department envisages, but the Federal Republic Shipowners Association is afraid that owners would go to the wall before long, leaving exporters worse off than previously.

The trust-busters certainly mean business, as they demonstrated last year. In September they embarked on their bid to bust trusts on the high seas by starting proceedings against seven US and European shipping companies, including this country's Hapag-Lloyd.

Hapag-Lloyd were required to submit to Washington documents of all kinds relating to rates, terms and other agreements with shipowners, forwarding agents, exporters and recipients involved on North Atlantic routes.

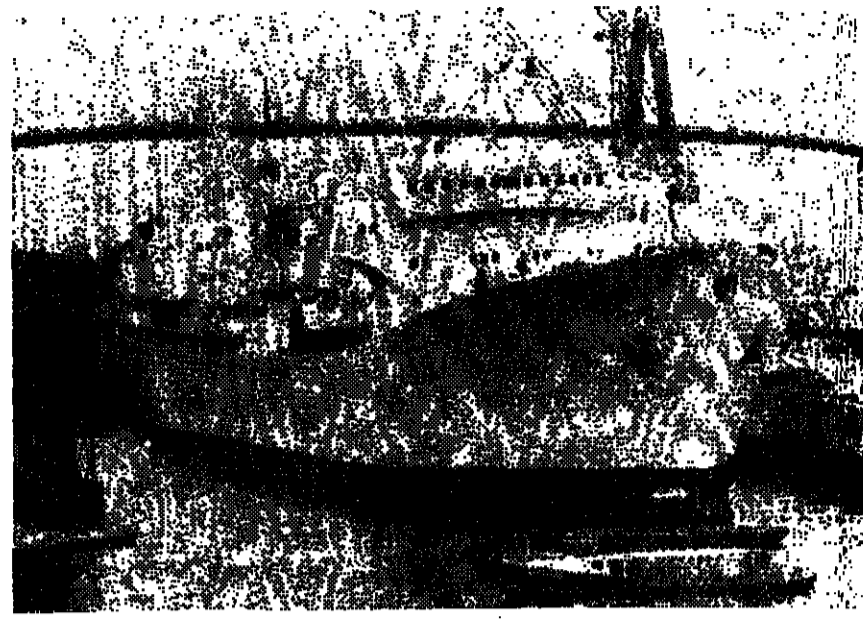
The trust-busters requested not only financial statements but also letters, teleggrams, teleprinter messages, protocols, copies of speeches, photos, maps and charts, tape recordings and even appointment book and diary notes.

Call for higher shipbuilding subsidies

Government subsidies towards shipbuilding in other European countries are perceptibly higher than in the Federal Republic, Hermann Nö, president of Bremerhaven chamber of commerce and industry, claims.

Herr Nö has compared the support measures undertaken by a number of European countries to aid ailing shipyards. These measures, he notes, are undertaken individually and without regard either for standard procedures within the Common Market or for OECD regulations.

In terms of the number of shipyard workers Bonn would need to subsidise shipbuilding to the tune of 700 million deutschmarks rather than the current figure of 180 million if this country's aid to shipbuilding were to bear comparison with Holland's.



The nuclear freighter Otto Hahn (Photo: Contfr.)

This constitutes sufficient paperwork to fill several containers and would take two or three years to sift through.

As yet, however, it looks as though Hapag-Lloyd will emerge unscathed. The Bonn Transport Ministry has hitherto placed an embargo on the provision to foreigners of shipping policy documents and seems likely to refuse permission yet again.

British, French, Swedish, Dutch and Belgian shipowners, who are all similarly indicted, have likewise lodged protests and refused to supply information on the ground that they are legally prevented from so doing.

America's trust-busters are none too popular in their own country, and if they stick to their guns shipowners hope that President Carter will intervene.

Mr Carter is a former naval officer and committed to furthering the interests of US merchant shipping. He is hardly likely to allow the Justice Department to bring not only foreign but also US shipowners to the brink of bankruptcy merely because the trust-busters are committed to the principle of competition at all costs.

Frank Otto
(Die Zeit, 18 March 1977)

Hapag-Lloyd to sail nuclear freighter

Otto Hahn, the 16,870-GRT nuclear-powered bulk cargo freighter, will fly the Hapag-Lloyd ensign from April. Hapag-Lloyd of Bremen and Hamburg, the country's largest shipping line, are keen to gain experience in handling the nuclear merchantman, a spokesman for the company stated in Hamburg on 15 March.

The Otto Hahn was launched nine years ago and although Hapag-Lloyd have no current plans to commission a nuclear freighter of their own they feel that under their management, with the benefit of Hapag-Lloyd's extensive international ties, the freighter will gain access to a larger number of ports.

The previous owners are GKSS, State-run nuclear shipping agency in Geesthacht, near Hamburg. The Otto Hahn is shortly to set sail for the East, having hitherto mainly served West Africa, Western Europe and America.

According to GKSS plans to commission a more powerful nuclear container freighter have reached the stage which construction could begin immediately.

A nuclear container freighter can also run at a profit if only permission dock at more ports were forthcoming. The Hapag-Lloyd spokesman noted that the Otto Hahn has berthed at over thirty ports, with permission already granted to dock at several others.

Hapag-Lloyd, however, would consider commissioning a nuclear freighter in conjunction with the Federal Research Ministry. The company has been negotiating with GKSS for the past three years or so.

Nuclear freighter Otto Hahn is currently the only vessel of its kind in the world. It is powered by a pressurised water reactor linked to 11,000-hp turbines and reaching speeds of seawater knots. By last autumn the freighter had covered 460,000 nautical miles on mere 45kg of uranium fuel.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 17 March 1977)

Climatological Handbook of Africa

For travel and business · Dr. Erich Höller
and Dr. Dietrich Stranz
Published by the Africa Association, Hamburg

Business and private journeys to Africa, with its varying climatological conditions, require special preparation if the traveller is to avoid unpleasant surprises.



The CLIMATOLOGICAL HANDBOOK OF AFRICA

gives the latest climatological data for all months of the year over more than 65 cities in Africa.

The book gives full details about temperature, precipitation, rain days, air humidity, oppressiveness, radiation temperatures, as well as special weather phenomena such as fog, storms, whirlwinds etc. for the 65 cities.

This CLIMATOLOGICAL HANDBOOK is a valuable companion for all visitors to Africa.

96 pages, 65 charts, approx. 15,000 diagrams, published in German, English and French.

Price: US\$ 5,- incl. postage

Available from bookshops or direct from the publishers

UEBERSEE-VERLAG GMBH

2 Hamburg 76 · Schoene Aussicht 23 · West Germany

We are looking for importers and agents.
We look forward to receiving your inquiry.



Gloriously colourful enamel oven-ware
Made in West Germany

30 different patterns

Four different base colours — cream, red,
blue, avocado — to suit every taste.

Experienced in exporting to all parts of the world.



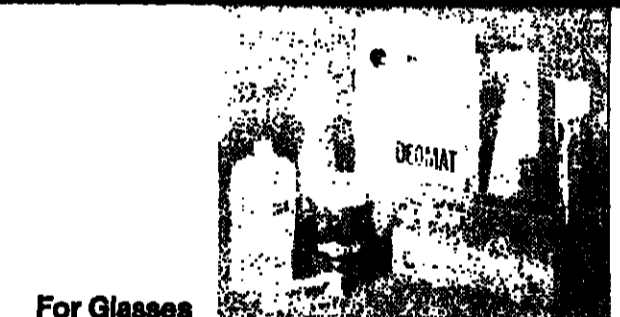
kochstar
panzer-email®
Merten & Storck

P. O. Box 1220 — 4408 Drensteinfurt / W. Germany
Telex: 8 92 788 mesto d

FERTILIZER
BUILDING MATERIALS
ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT
CHEMICAL PRODUCTS
MACHINERY/PLANTS
REFRIGERATION
TUBES / PIPES
CANNED FOOD
VEHICLES
STEEL
PUMPS
TOOLS
WOOD
ETC.

PETER STELLING
EXPORT — IMPORT — GROSSHANDEL
P. O. Box 50 14 63 · Ehrenbergstr. 35 · D-2000 HAMBURG 50
Phone: (040)-38 28 11/38 72 25
cable address: STELEXPORT HAMBURG · Telex: 02-161 309 stel d
W GERMANY

Specialities for Hotels, Bars, Restaurants . . .



For Glasses
OPTICLAR the world's leading glass-washing tablets, sanitizing
OPTICLAR COLD WATER GLASS WASHER washes and rinses every type of glass
PROLYT cleans and disinfects glass-brushes and removes beer slime

For all kinds of metal sink tops
ATOMIKA-GOLD odourless disinfectant metal cleaner and anti-corrosive for really sparkling results

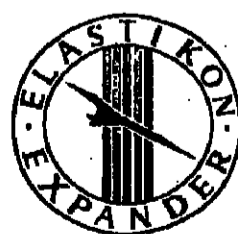
For the hygienic wash-room
DEOMAT light-activated, battery-powered electronic Deodorizing Unit which dispenses a lightly perfumed hygienic atmosphere through a scientifically regulated disinfectant spray.
INTERNATIONAL PATENTS

BLIBEST self-acting urine-stone- and chalk-remover

Exciting new gift and souvenir

DRINK-ALADIN INTERNATIONAL PATENTS BEER-ALADIN
Glasses which light up while drinking. Create an amusing atmosphere in bars, at parties, and so on.

Opticlar® PRODUCTION GMBH
D-5108 Monechau/Eifel · Eschbachstrasse 36-38
West Germany Telephone 0 24 72 - 13 33



Ask for more information:
J. G. Karl Schmidt & Co.
P. O. Box 100 208
5650 Solingen-Merscheid
West Germany

J.G. Karl
SCHMIDT

Expander Sport Bandages Deuser Band Magic Rope

MEDICINE

Berlin congress reviews latest developments in neurology

Contrary to the usual practice until only a few years ago, cross-eyed children should not be treated by covering one eye for extended periods.

It has now been established that this therapy could lead to a loss of sight for the covered eye. Research carried out on vertebrate animals in recent years proves that even a relatively short-term covering of one eye can cut off certain nerve connections. As a result, the central nervous system acts as if these connections were unnecessary and permits them to atrophy.

This switching off of nerve communications can only take place at a specific phase of the child's development - a phase which, where human beings are concerned, has not yet been clearly pinpointed.

It lies in the nature of the nervous system that temporarily disused nerve links can subsequently not be reactivated. Since these facts were established by researchers, eyes of cross-eyed children are covered alternately for short periods only. This prevents the central nervous system from switching off prematurely.

It is evidently a basic principle of nature that every organism is initially equipped with more nervous links than necessary. Researchers have established that Man is equipped with between two and eight times as many nerve cells as he retains in the course of his life.

The Ninth Dahlem Medical Conference in West Berlin, which was largely devoted to this issue, established that the genetic code cannot entirely antici-



pate how many nerve links will be needed. Says Professor Wolf Singer of the Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry in Munich: "It is evidently much more economical for nature not to burden the genes with this information but to obtain it from the environment."

Man's organism finds out by trial and error which nerve links belong together and are needed. In the course of this process, the meaningful is consolidated, and useless ballast is jettisoned. This "competition" for the preservation of optimal functions can perhaps best be explained by the fact that the cellular terminals of nerve fibres secrete (still unknown) substances which permit the right nerve fibre to be grafted onto it.

The Ninth Dahlem Conference on the "Function and Structure of Nervous Systems", which was attended by more than 50 scientists from eight countries, established above all the following facts: Our brain research is still in its infancy, and scientists are only just beginning to understand the simple patterns of nervous systems and the manner in which they operate.

Thus for instance Professor G. C. Stent of Berkeley, USA, explained at length how the nervous system of leeches, which consists of about 20 segments with 175 nerve cells each, works.

Professor W.E. Reichardt of Tübingen explained the processes by which the common house fly recognises shapes and movements. The Tübingen researcher has dealt with this problem for more than twenty years without having been able to answer all questions. Professor Reichardt said that he hoped to be able to conclude his work about the fly's ability to recognise shapes in about five years.

Other researchers delved into the nervous systems of worms, snails, frogs, fish, cats and apes.

But the fully developed human brain, weighing about 1.5 kilos and consisting of 10,000 million nerve cells, still mystifies scientists.

Only via the nervous systems of animals can we gain some insight into

the manner in which Man's central nervous system processes information.

But even if we still have a long way to go before fully understanding the human nervous system, the direct and indirect applications of research results in this field are still extremely manifold.

Thus for instance it is hoped that this type of research will provide information on how to restore certain functions of the senses, improve diagnostic methods in neurology as a result of a better understanding of the functions of certain brain centres and give insights into the connection between early childhood experience and the development of specific functions of the nervous system.

Research into the biochemical transmission substances for nerve impulses, which has become particularly topical following the discovery of neuro-transmitters containing morphia, can open up new therapeutic avenues in psychiatry.

Konrad Müller-Christiansen (Hannoversche Allgemeine, 16 March 1977)

Cologne guide to 'Parenthood for Beginners'

Commissioned by the Ministry for Family Affairs, the Health Centre in Cologne has just published a guideline for young parents.

The 60-page brochure, which is entitled "The Baby", has a circulation of one million copies and is available free of charge.

The publication includes such chapters as "What You can do for Your Child During Pregnancy", "Rhesus Factor" and "Can Birth be Facilitated?".

Thirteen pages are devoted to the baby's diet, six to the care of the infant and fifteen to the infant's health. The objective of the publication is to assuage the anxieties of parents.

With regard to some chapters, however, it is justified to ask whether the whole thing warranted an expenditure of 700,000 Deutschmarks of the taxpayer's money... for instance: "The Daily Bath - Fun for the Father" or "Babies Need Sunshine and Air".

More precise and informative, on the other hand, is the appendix with such headings as "Your Good Right", "Protective Legislation for Mothers" and "What to do When a Child of Working Parents Falls Ill".

This country's legislation provides that a parent caring for a child aged up to eight is entitled to 'five days' worth of sickness benefits per annum.

(Kölnner Stadt-Anzeiger, 19 March 1977)

Lung specialist lambasts cigarette smoking again

Every smoked cigarette hastens death by 15 minutes. This is the conclusion arrived at by Professor Trendelenburg of the Homburg University Clinic.

In an article published in *München-er Medizinische Wochenschrift* (Munich Medical Weekly) Professor Trendelenburg, a lung specialist, stressed that 600 harmful substances have been found in tobacco smoke so far. The inhaling of 20 cigarettes a day over a period of 20 years deposits six kilos of dust in the respiratory system.

Aware of these facts, the tobacco industry has been making an all-out effort to develop "defused" tobaccos, including the nicotine-free cigarette. Filters, too,

have been made more effective. But even so, says Professor Trendelenburg, "smoke is smoke".

Ideally, cigarettes should be free not only of nicotine but also of tar. And even then, short of forgoing the combustion process altogether, the only solution would be a filter that blocks out smoke entirely.

Following extensive polls involving patients with chronic bronchitis, Professor Trendelenburg arrived at the conclusion that only about 15 per cent of smokers are able to give up the habit without systematic help.

(Welt am Sonntag, 20 March 1977)

Munich anaesthetists claim acupuncture successes

Confronted with the challenge of China's age-old empirical acupuncture method, modern anaesthesiology has been prompted to rethink.

The Federal Republic's Heart Centre reported 800 successful cases of acupuncture anaesthesia; and Munich University's Urology Clinic has administered 700 such anaesthetics so far.

Professor A. Doenicke of the Surgical Polyclinic in Munich reported on the results achieved by this method. His clinic has been using electro-stimulation anaesthesia in surgery for about ten years.

This process involves putting 18 needles into various parts of the human body and imparting to these needles an electric current of no more than 20 milli-amperes. It must however be pointed out that the classical acupuncture points are immaterial in this type of anaesthesia. The project group at the Surgical Polyclinic is equipped with apparatus enabling it to vary the electric current, thus providing the necessary dosage for electro-stimulation anaesthesia in accordance with case to case requirements. This is necessary because the electrical resistance of the skin and the tissues varies not only from person to person but also undergoes changes in the course of an operation.

As a result of such individual adjustments, even patients who suffer from circulation disorders or heart rhythm disturbances can safely be anaesthetised by this method. Moreover, this delicate control prevents burns which could otherwise occur at the points where the acupuncture needles have been inserted. Electro-stimulation increases the pain threshold by at least thirty per cent. As a result, the dosage of painkillers to be administered can be reduced.

In cases of complicated abdominal operations, frequently lasting for five hours, the patient receives roughly the same amount of drugs as is normally used in outpatient treatment prior to administering anaesthesia.

This method does away entirely with the need for the very expensive and harmful (particularly for the liver) inhalation, anaesthetic halothane. Apart from electro-stimulation via the needles, the patient is administered only laughing gas. Due to the sparing use of pharmaceuticals, the patient feels considerably better following such an operation than he would after traditional surgery. He comes out of anaesthesia earlier, can breathe properly instantly and suffers less from side-effects.

According to Professor J. Kugler of the Neurological Polyclinic in Munich, acupuncture also has its place in treating pain. The insertion and twisting of the needles, slight warming up and electro-stimulation have the effect of changing the processing of bodily sensations - has been borne out by encephalography - thus reducing the ability to register pain.

Acupuncture has proved particularly successful in cases of spasmodic pain of the shoulder area and the head as well as in the case of stomach ulcers.

The role played by suggestion in acupuncture treatment is still unclear. The same applies with regard to the physiological reactions and the sedatives (morphine-like substances) released by the brain.

A. Farthmann (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 16 March 1977)

NATURE NOTEBOOK

Pollution decimates bird life, ornithologist warns

A study carried out by the zoologist Bernd Conrad of the Zoological Institute of Freiburg University, in the course of which 457 eggs of native birds were examined, showed that none were free of pesticide and PCB deposits.

Had these eggs been intended for human consumption, they would have had to be destroyed.

The results of the study, which was carried out in 1974/75 in conjunction with the German Research Association and the Max Planck Society, have now been made public.

Bernd Conrad summed up his findings in a brochure entitled *Die Giftbelastung der Vogelfauna Deutschlands* (Poisons Inflicted on Germany's Birdlife), published by Kilda-Verlag, Greven.

Herr Conrad's analysis of 19 local bird species was prompted by the alarming reduction in the number of birds since the mid-fifties.

Initially, these losses affected primarily predatory birds, subsequently spreading to storks and seabirds. And as of late there is a growing number of songbirds affected.

Reports from virtually all parts of the world indicate that the causes of the diminishing bird population are the same everywhere. Man is the culprit number one in all instances.

West and South European countries lament the killing of songbirds by the thousands. Recreation activities interfere with hatching, birds' nests are robbed of their eggs and the natural habitat of the birds is interfered with by the destruction of hedges and unbridled construction activity.

On Lake Constance, the infamous mass slaughter of waterbirds during this year's open season by hunters from West Germany, Austria and Switzerland has just come to an end.

Many species of birds suffer from the fact that their food is contaminated by pesticides, harmful metals and PCB. Among the pesticides, the main culprits are Hexa (HCB), Lindan, Aldrin, Heptachlor and Dieldrin. Other noxious sub-

stances are softeners for paint and PCB (used in the plastics industry).

These harmful substances find their way into the birds' environment through the sewerage and garbage disposal systems. Like pesticides, they are absorbed by the birds in numerous ways.

Moreover, the natural habitat of the birds is shrinking, eggshells have become thinner and frequently break under the weight of the brooding hen, and fledglings die prematurely.

All these facts have been established by British, Dutch, American and Swedish ornithologists. But Bernd Conrad is the first to have drawn attention to this situation in the Federal Republic of Germany. His study demonstrates that the warnings issued by ecologists were only too justified.

Twelve predatory bird species have dwindled to such an extent that they are threatened with extinction. This was established two years ago by the ornithologist Dr Gerhard Thielecke of the Radolfzell bird-watching station.

They include the moor buzzard or marsh harrier, the peregrine falcon, the goshawk, the sparrowhawk, the sea eagle and the eagle owl. Other species facing extinction are the kite, the tree falcon and the honey buzzard.

Bernd Conrad established that this country's birdlife is particularly threatened in industrialised areas. But intensive agriculture also places birdlife in jeopardy.

His egg analysis showed that 97 per cent of the examined eggs contained two, 58 per cent three, 22 per cent four and 8 per cent five different pesticides in large quantities.

It has been established that the diminishing thickness of the eggshells is directly attributable to pesticides in the birds' bodies in five different species. It seems evident that some of these pesticides have an adverse effect on the calcium metabolism of the birds inasmuch as they affect the glands and thus the enzyme production.

Curiously enough, noxious substances

in the environment do not lead to thinner eggshells with all species. Bernd Conrad feels that this might be due to differing metabolism mechanisms or to differing food chains for the various species.

Most animals serve as food for other animals. There are clearly discernible food chains. Certain small animals are eaten by larger ones, and these in turn serve as food for still larger beasts.

If pesticides are washed into bodies of water, they are soon absorbed by unicellular creatures, and these are eaten by fish who, in turn, are eaten by birds. Thus the poison becomes cumulative within the various links of the food chain. The data made public by Bernd Conrad concerning dying birdlife in the Federal Republic must be viewed in conjunction with the general threat to animal life and the progressive extermination of more and more species.

Since every animal fulfils a specific function in nature, continuous decimation must affect the ecological balance.

Many songbirds, for instance, serve a useful function by eating insects. But it is quite conceivable that a point of no return could be reached and that a vicious circle could be set in train. Pests could multiply out of control for lack of natural enemies. This in turn would require the increasingly massive use of chemical pesticides which would accelerate the decimation of larger species with a longer life-span still further.

The dramatically increased number of gnats and mosquitoes in many parts of Europe is an indication that this development has already set in.

The cutting down of the forests in the southern regions of Europe, which turned them into barren wastes, has its parallel in today's world. In order to maintain our level of consumption and economic growth we are placing the ecology on earth in jeopardy. And the consequences of such an attitude must lead to disaster in the long run.

Theo Löbsack (Kölnner Stadt-Anzeiger, 19 March 1977)



Sea eagle



Moor buzzard



Eagle owl

(Photos: Conti-Press, Archiv)

Hamburg scientists recommend painless death for lobsters

The Federal Research Institute for Fisheries in Hamburg has declared war on those gourmets who maintain that a lobster is only good if boiled alive.

Experts term the traditional method of preparing a lobster barbaric, saying that "the death throes of the animals extend over a long period, primarily due to the heavy capcase which prevents swift heat penetration." Experiments have established that a swift and painless killing of the lobster by electrocution does not affect its food quality.

The experiments, in which three American and three European lobsters were used, were based on the animal protection legislation in this country, according to which the laws stipulating painless killing apply to marine animals as well.

The Hamburg researchers used an implement customary in the fishing industry whereby a tank of water with

marine animals is exposed to electric shock for a duration of 30 seconds.

The contention put forward by chefs throughout the world that only the age-old method of plunging the live lobster into boiling water preserves the fine aroma of these crustaceans has been refuted by the Hamburg experiments. It has been established that, like in boiling, the lobster's tail curls under an electric shock. Connoisseurs have always considered the curled tail a sign of freshness and quality.

Moreover, none of the six experimental lobsters shed their extremities in the death throes resulting from electrocution as gourmets and opponents of a quick death claimed they would do.

The researchers pointed out that, when cooking lobsters that were put to death electrically, no sign of movement could be discerned, and it was clear that the lobsters died within a fraction of a second.

(Der Tagespiegel, 20 March 1977)

Advertisement for Wilofa-Diamant nail files. It features an illustration of several nail files of different shapes and sizes. The text reads: 'Our Sapphire Nail Files offer you the comfort of modern nail care. The new "Delphin" Nail File is designed to be kind to your nails, shaping them elegantly and gently with a soft filing action. We supply files in various sizes and styles, in attractive gift packaging if required, and some with fitted filligree flowers. Of course, the "Delphin" is ideally suited for your advertising slogan. Further details from WILOFA-DIAMANT Willi Lohmann 5421 Fachbach/Lahn - Sommerstr. - W. Germany'.

Vertical text on the left margin: 'Japan 1976'.